

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02

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R 031527Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6563

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FOR AF/E - COOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: FALASHA JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA

REF: COOTE TO AMBASSADOR LETTER, SEPT 12, 1975

1. EMBASSY HAS CORRESPONDED WITH DEPARTMENT BEFORE ON SUBJECT OF FALASHA JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA. WE ARE NOT PERSONALLY VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT FALASHAS SINCE THEY ARE RESTRICTED TO REMOTE AREA WELL NORTH OF ADDIS AT PRESENT UNREACHABLE BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCES. WE ARE, HOWEVER, POUCHING COPY OF RELATIVELY RECENT ARTICLE CONCERNING THEM PROVIDED TO US BY BRITISH EMBASSY HERE WHICH REPRESENTS MOST OF WHAT WE KNOW. THEY CERTAINLY APPEAR TO BE POOR, AND ALTHOUGH INSTRUCTED IN HEBREW, PROBABLY NOT WELL EDUCATED.

2. WE ARE PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT DO FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC) EITHER BEFORE HE COMES OR WHILE HE IS HERE (ASSUMING JDC SENDS SOMEONE). WE ARE OF COURSE PREPARED TO TRY AND BE OF HELP, BUT WILL WANT GUIDANCE FROM DEPT. IN THIS CONNECTION, BRITISH EXPERIENCE IS OF SOME INTEREST. THERE IS ORGANIZATION IN UK SET UP FOR PURPOSE OF TRYING BE OF HELP TO FALASHAS. ORGANIZATION

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SENT REP TO ETHIOPIA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. ETHIOPIANS

GAVE HIM THREE MONTH TOURIST VISA. AFTER ARRIVING HERE,
REP WITH SUPPORT BRITISH EMBASSY SOUGHT HAVE HIS STATUS
CHANGED TO RESIDENT. ETHIOPIANS DECLINED AND REP EVENTUALLY
RETURNED TO UK. ORGANIZATION IS PLANNING SEND SECOND REP
SHORTLY AND BRITISH EMBASSY EXPECTS HE WILL PROBABLY MAKE;
SAME REQUEST. BRITISH CHARGE IN INFORMING US OF STORY,
SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION ETHIOPIANS WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT SUCH OUTSIDE INTEREST ON BEHALF OF ONE OF THEIR
COMMUNITIES, AND THOUGHT IT LIKELY SECOND REQUEST FOR
RESIDENCE STATUS WOULD ALSO BE DENIED.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS11816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750345-0207
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751085/aaaacxzg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 SEP 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FALASHA JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PINT, ET, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006